

BOOKS and AUTHORS REVIEWS and COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Theodore Roosevelt's Story of His Life and Career—
Mr. Birmingham Once More on His Own
People—A Volume of Dedications.

"THE VIGOR OF LIFE."
THEODORE ROOSEVELT: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. With illustrations. 8vo, pp. xli, 647. The Macmillan Company.

Parts of this autobiography of the most picturesque and most widely known living American have been made familiar to the readers of The Tribune through their serial publication in its Sunday issues. The completed work is well, it is Roosevelt. It reflects in every line that wondrous zest of living and doing—and talking—which has carried his name around the world. It is intensely human, as he is; it is a true romance of the here and the now, a chronicle of modern Quixotism, ever ready to couch its lance at real giants and dragons, if also at windmills. For attacking windmills has a fascination and dangers of its own. This is the book of the strenuous life, or, as Mr. Roosevelt now prefers to call it, the "vigor of life."

If ever man was entitled to say "All of this I saw, and much of this I was—and achieved," it is Theodore Roosevelt. He has been in the midst of it, he is in it still, there can be no doubt of that after one has read his closing chapters. But, quite unconsciously, merely by being himself in these pages, it is the man who interests us even more than what he has seen or done. This is, indeed, a highly individualized "human document." Mr. Roosevelt takes us entirely into his confidence from the very first, as men and brothers. To be sure, there are certain passages in his career, which, as he declares, "cannot now be written"—the world has had enough of the indiscretions of statesmen in recent years—but, as a great newspaper editor once observed, "the world rarely misses what is not there." It is so in this case. Mr. Roosevelt tells us enough, and tells it frankly, with that conviction of being always in the right, which is so striking a quality of his personality, and which must be so potent an incentive in his pursuit of his aims and ends.

We have been so preoccupied in this year of semi-centenaries of the Civil War with biographies of its worthies North and South, that we have somewhat forgotten the conditions, social, political and economic, that prevailed a quarter of a century ago. About this period, which is that of the beginnings of his public career, Mr. Roosevelt is a delightfully reminiscent companion. He gives us new faith in ourselves, in our steady progress toward better things, when he recalls the practical politics in this city and state of the early and middle 80's, the outrages of our elections in those days. With even the best of us, he points out, individualism ruled supreme in politics as in business; the era of the consciousness of collective responsibility was only dawning. And from this serious chapter the autobiographer passes easily to his adventures in cowboy land, big game shooting, sport and

athletics, to a defence of prize-fighting, and to the praise of his friends of the ring, "Mike" Donovan, "Battling" Nelson, Fitzsimmons, John L. Sullivan—law abiding citizens all. With them are grouped the Wild Western friends who later served in the Rough Riders, and who received federal appointments and were always sure of an enthusiastic welcome at the White House. Again, when dealing with his experiences as Police Commissioner of New York, Mr. Roosevelt never tires of singing the praises of his men, of their courage and prowess and deeds of daring-do. "The vigor of life."

It is one of the many merits of the book that it never sounds the same note too long. There is just enough here, never too much, of the African hunting trip, or of race suicide, of the acquisition of the Panama Canal strip, or of our unpreparedness on the eve of the Spanish War. It is amusing to be reminded of the panic that in its early days seized upon the dwellers along the Atlantic Coast.

The Governor of one state actually announced that he would not permit its National Guard to leave its borders, the idea being to retain it against a possible Spanish invasion. So many of the business men of Boston took their goods into Worcester that its safe deposit companies proved unable to take care of them. In my own neighborhood on Long Island clauses were gravely put into leases to the effect that if the property were destroyed by the Spaniards the lease should lapse. Chambers of commerce and boards of trade of different coast cities brought every species of pressure to bear upon the administration to distribute the navy ship by ship, at all kinds of points, with the idea of protecting everything everywhere.

Mr. Roosevelt occasionally departs from the chronological order, so that he may deal with one phase of his life in its entirety down to date. The record of his public career is, however, not included in this freer treatment of his material. It closes with the cruise of our fleet around the world. One of the appendices is a reply to President Wilson's book, "The New Freedom."

KATHALEEN NI HOULAHAN
'Mr. Birmingham' Discusses the Men and the Myths of Ireland.

IRISHMEN ALL. By George A. Birmingham. With 12 illustrations in color by Jack B. Yeats. R. H. A. 12mo, pp. 224. The Frederick A. Stokes Company.

The highly entertaining and witty Irishman who just now is so conspicuous on the literary stage is not quite so entertaining and so witty in this collection of sketches of Irish types as he was in that delightful volume, uniform with this in format, "The Lighter Side of Irish Life," which drew from us a paean of some considerable length at the time of its appearance. "Irishmen All," however, is a pleasant enough book, except, in our opinion, for the illustrations in color "from old paintings" by Jack B. Yeats, R. H. A. We cannot but wonder what it was that encouraged the brother of the poet to devote his talents, whatever they are, to the art of painting. The author here continues his interpretation of Ireland as it is, which he sees as something very different from that of song, legend, myth and story. He lightly sketches a number of types which he regards as representative of their class, in little papers on "The Higher Official," "The Minor Official," "The Policeman," "The Squire," "The Politician," "The Country Gentleman," "The Farmer," "The Publican," "The Exile from Erin," "The Minister," "The Parish Priest" and "The Young Lady and Gentleman in Business."

By far the most patriotic Irishman there are, we are given to understand in a very amusing paper, are the exiles from Erin. "London is the nearest place from which a person of normal vision can see Kathaleen ni Houlihan." And in order to be really patriotic you must be able to see Kathaleen ni Houlihan. In illustration of his point Mr. Birmingham introduces his very interesting friend, Desmond O'Donoghue, who lives in London.

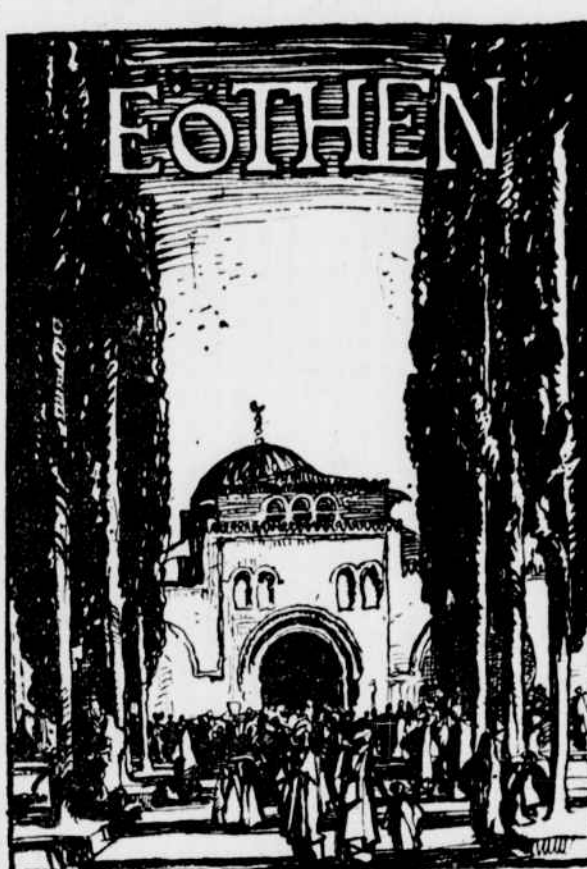
Before he went there he was just an ordinary Irishman like the rest of us, but with a fairly well developed sense of humor. London—he has now lived there for nearly ten years—has changed him greatly. He has become immensely seri-

Edith Wharton's
New Novel
The Custom of
The Country

"This is the best story that Mrs. Wharton has written since 'The House of Mirth.' It belongs to the same class and is equally absorbing."—Miss Gilder in The Leader.

1.35 net
Charles Scribner's Sons
Fifth Ave. at 48th St. New York

"ALL-OUT-OF-PRINT-BOOKS"
A WHITE MEN: can get you any book ever published on any subject. The most expert book finder extant. When in England call and see my 500,000 rare books. BAKER'S GREAT BOOK SHOP, John Bright St., Birmingham.



Frontispiece
By
Frank
Brangwyn
J. B. LIPPINCOTT
CO.



Vignette by Hugh Thomson in "Quality Street";
GEORGE H. DORAN CO.



Cover
Design
By
N. C. Wyeth
CHARLES
SCRIBNER'S
SONS.

A BOOK OF DEDICATIONS

Examples from the Books of Many Generations.

DEDICATIONS. An Anthology of the Forms Used from the Earliest Days of Bookmaking to the Present Time. Compiled by Mary Elizabeth Brown. With illustrations. 8vo, pp. x, 470. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The alluring subject of this anthology has been curiously neglected. The itching to "dedicate" the result of literary labors to some one or to something is one of the curious idiosyncrasies of the human mind. It is irresistible. "To compose a dedication," writes Mr. Gosse (this compiler reminds us, "is without doubt one of the primitive instincts of scribbling man." And in the dedications of books, since books were made, may be read in a very entertaining way much of the human story. For the dedication, like all other human conventions, has changed in form to suit the changing taste of succeeding generations. So, too, dedications reveal, in a curiously illuminating manner, practically every human quality: vanity and humility, shameless self-interest and sincerity, pomposity, spontaneous love and respect, admiration, gratitude, wit, stupidity, and even malice. The introduction to this volume reviews briefly the history of the dedication. The anthology is divided into chapters of classification. As examples of personages to whom books have been dedicated may be specified The Delty, The Virgin Mary, Royalty and Dignitaries of Church and State, "The Reader," and the author himself. Many of the pleasantest dedications have been to children. Books have also been dedicated to armies and navies, to countries, states, cities and their inhabitants, to institutions and societies, to animals, to things spiritual, and to things inanimate.

A fair example of a dedication to Delty is furnished by one John Leycester, who, in 1639, dedicated his "Civill Warres of England, Briefly Related from his Majesties First Setting Up his Standard, 1641, to this Present Personall Hopefull Treaty"—"To the Honour and Glory of the Infinite, Immense, and Incomprehensible Majesty of Jehovah, the Fountaine of all Excellencies, the Lord of Hosts, the Giver of all Victories, and the God of Peace." He continued in a poem, "By J. O. Ley, a small crumme of mortality." Numerous dedications are quite famous, as that enigmatical one to "Mr. W. H.," prefixed by Thomas Thorpe, bookseller of London, to Shakespeare's Sonnets. And Dr. Johnson's scathing definition of a patron when Lord Chesterfield fell short of Johnson's expectations in the amount which he contributed to the publication of the famous dictionary men will not willingly let die. Another celebrated dedication is that of "The Gentle Art of Making Enemies"—"To the Rare Few, who, early in life, have rid themselves of the Friendship of the Many." Laurence Sterne's solemn "putting up fairly to public sale" to an imaginary lord a dedication in "Tristram Shandy" is not without merit. John Burroughs was felicitous in his dedication of "Bird and Bough"—"To the kinglet that sang in my evergreens in October and made me think it was May." And a very

amiable dedication prefixed to "The Bashful Earthquake," by Oliver Herford, illustrated by the author, is this: "To the Illustrator, in grateful acknowledgment of his amiable condescension in lending his exquisite and delicate art to the embellishment of these poor verses, from his sincerest admirer, The Author."

Earlier books and articles concerning dedications are to be found in studious places, but this volume makes handy to the general reader a fairly representative collection of them. It is an interesting affair to turn through idly. But it is too bad that it is not a pleasanter looking volume. Then, too, many dedications might profitably have been omitted that are included apparently for no other reason than that they relate to well known names. The most human dedications are often to be found in the most obscure books.

HOME UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

New Volumes of an Admirable Undertaking.

In this age of many books it is somewhat hazardous to speak of any single one or any series of them as filling a widely felt want. Yet this is what the Home University Library has done since the issue of its earliest volumes, and what it continues to do with each and every addition to their number. Its editors take their task seriously, and they are competent, as is witnessed by their choice of contributors. Authorities they are invariably, but almost as invariably they have the touch that gives the "popularization" of any given branch of human knowledge its educational value. There is, for instance, Professor J. B. Bury's contribution to the division of philosophy and religion, "A History of Freedom of Thought." It is history in the objective sense, but it is informed with the modern spirit, with enthusiasm for what has been achieved, what must be maintained, and what may yet be attained. Again, Jane Harrison's little volume on "Ancient Art and Ritual" is a model of its kind. "Disease and Its Causes," by Professor W. T. Councilman, of Harvard; "Plant Life," by Professor J. B. Farmer, of the University of London, and "Germany," by Charles Tower, complete the tale of these additions to the series.

The possessor of these compact, inexpensive, neatly printed and bound little volumes has at hand an ever-flowing spring of profitable entertainment for a lonely evening. (Henry Holt & Co.)

LANG MEMORIAL.
A committee has been formed to collect funds for the erection of a memorial tablet to the late Andrew Lang in the Selkirk Free Library, which he opened in 1889. Subscriptions, which are limited to two guineas, should be sent to the secretary of the committee, Mr. J. Strathearn Steedman, Selkirk.

LOUIS XVI.
"Rose Bertin," by Emile Langford, and "Pierre Garat," by Bernard Garat, are two new books dealing with the period of Louis XVI, published by the Scribners. La Bertin was Marie Antoinette's dressmaker and the arbiter of feminine fashions of her period. Garat was the Queen's favorite singer.

Minor Classics of Literature in Elaborate Holiday Editions

Robert Louis Stevenson's Most Sympathetic Illustrator—Mr. Brangwyn with Kinglake in the Orient—Hugh Thomson's Dainty Art.

IN CHRISTMAS DRESS.

KIDNAPPED. Being Memoirs of The Adventures of David Balfour in the Year 1751. Written by Himself. And now set forth by Robert Louis Stevenson. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Large 8vo, pp. xli, 288. Charles Scribner's Sons.

EOTHEN; or, Traces of Travel Brought Home from the East. By A. W. Kinglake. With an Introduction by S. L. Benson. Designs by Frank Brangwyn. A. R. A. Large 8vo, pp. 396. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.

QUALITY STREET. A Comedy in Four Acts. By J. M. Barrie. Illustrated by Hugh Thomson. Large 8vo, pp. vii, 138. The George H. Doran Company.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. By Kenneth Grahame. Illustrated by Paul Branson. 8vo, pp. 351. Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE JUNGLE BOOK. By Rudyard Kipling. With 16 illustrations in color by Maurice and Edward Detmold. 8vo, pp. 331. The Century Company.

The safe and sane Christmas (or whatever it is called) concerning the establishment of which one hears ominous rumblings around about these days, is an idea that does not appear to threaten the producers of Christmas books. Holiday editions promise to be as profuse this season as ever before. And the question, What shall we do with our classics to keep them ever green? is quite answered at this time of the year. Our favorite illustrators may be had in them to the very best advantage. Very probably as great a favorite as there is among our American illustrators to-day is Mr. N. C. Wyeth. And his hosts of admirers will rejoice in the affinity which he has found in his talent in the tales of Stevenson, doubtless generally held to be the fittest of all classics. Here Mr. Wyeth continues something of the dignified traditions of that dean of American illustration, the late Howard Pyle. The "Treasure Island" of last season is followed this year by a uniform edition of "Kidnapped." David Balfour, Uncle Ebenezer of the house of Shaws, and that bonny fighter, Alan Breck, glow in rainbow colors upon the page. The most popular picture, no doubt, will be the scene of the siege of the roundhouse, the scene celebrated in the "Song of the Sword of Alan." Though a much more interesting thing in the way of a piece of painting for book illustration is the picture in which Mr. Campbell, the minister of Essendean, takes affecting leave of David as he sets out upon his journey. The illustrator here, and again in other places, experiments with a problem in the effects of sunlight in a very artistic way. Mr. Wyeth is developing, too, an interesting decorative quality, absent from his earlier Wild West pictures.

"Eothen" is a classic better known to those of middle age than to the younger generation, and Frank Brangwyn's sumptuous designs for this handsome volume should do it much service. Though he is a painter and an etcher first, and one of high character, and an illustrator only incidentally, he is popular with a large audience, many of whose members very infrequently get into an art gallery. These "traces of travel brought home from the East" by the enthusiastic, humorous and finished literary artist, Kinglake, some seventy years ago, present him with an excellent opportunity for the exercise of his bold and distinctive art, so fond of his old color.

Mr. Hugh Thomson has followed the pursuit of embellishing holiday editions longer than any one we can readily recall. Probably he has done all of the classics of the period with which his quaint and delicate drawings are associated in the minds of his admirers. At any rate, he comes before us this year in an elaborate edition of Mr. Barrie's pretty comedy, "Quality Street." It had struck us these last several seasons that Mr. Thomson wasn't as good as he used to be. However, he has come around again now, and in this very nice looking holiday volume he is as happy as a butterfly. The drawings include many full pages in tinted color and numerous bright and characteristic vignettes.

A certain Mr. Toad, a rotund jolly character with a craze for motoring, made a great many very dear friends in this country a few years ago, friends who thought of the world and all of him, as the phrase is. Well, he has had his portrait painted, and those of all his comrades, including the little bright-eyed mole and the gray wandering scurra, and by a clever man, too, Mr. Paul Branson, who illustrates in color this new edition of the humorous, tender, satiric, romantic, whimsical and lyric "The Wind in the Willows." To catch all of the elusive charm of this "queer book about animals," as we heard a puzzled lady call it, an illustrator would need to be as much of an artist as Mr. Grahame, and Mr. Branson is not quite that. But his pictures touch up the book brightly, and we hope will introduce it to many new readers.

One might suppose that almost every-

body in the world old enough to read already had a copy of "The Jungle Book." The sale of Kipling's books, one hears from time to time from places where figures concerning the matter are kept, is a phenomenon in modern publishing. In the last ten years, it is said, the sales have increased from five to ten times, in the cases of some books even twenty times, and their sale is still increasing. A "Jungle Book" in full holiday attire comes forth to greet this season and to assist in meeting the insatiable demand for the legends of Mowgli and his brothers, Little Toomai of the elephants and the rest of the inhabitants of the classic jungle place. It has full-page pictures in color by the Englishmen, Maurice and Edward Detmold, pages decorated with borders in green, end-pieces, and a cover in gold and several shades of green.

A GREAT PREACHER

Henry Ward Beecher, the Admiration of American People.

LECTURES AND ORATIONS BY HENRY WARD BEECHER. Edited with a foreword by Newell Dwight Hillis. 12mo, pp. 330. Fleming H. Revell Company.

In his day and generation the nation went to hear "Beecher preach" and read what he wrote. No visit to New York was complete without a pilgrimage to Plymouth Church. Strangers inquiring their way to "Beecher's church" in Brooklyn were told to "follow the crowd." Dr. Hille remarks that "more people knew Mr. Beecher than any other man upon our streets or cars." And he states the fact that "multitudes of our people never made up their minds on any great question of religion, politics or social reform until first of all they had taken their bearings from Beecher's thinking." Certainly for more than forty years Henry Ward Beecher was one of the two or three most conspicuous figures in American life. And it was by sheer force of personal qualities that he maintained an influence as great as that exerted by other men to whom was lent the weight of high office. The magnetism of golden eloquence springing from a noble presence can be but imperfectly preserved upon the printed page. And, too, much of Beecher's religious thought has served its mission, and has not the pungency to-day that it had when delivered. Even so, the spirit and those gifts by which he captured the admiration of the American people are moving in these collected addresses of the great preacher.

Many who never had the opportunity to hear him should find deep interest in this volume, as will many, too, to whom he is a stirring memory.

A MONKEY TALE.

The author of "The Mystery of the Yellow Room" has written a story which recalls one of Poe's most uncanny tales. The hero is a monkey, captured when a baby and brought up in Paris as a human being. As he grows up he is suspected of having a hand in some terrible crimes. "Baloo" is the title of the translation, which is soon coming out.

A girl kidnapped in the Arizona Desert

by an Indian! But she was weak from illness, and the fresh air, the excitement of the chase, the exercise, and the beauty of the great open spaces were just what she needed. Read of this weird spell of the desert in Honor Willie's exciting novel, THE HEART OF THE DESERT.

\$1.25 net, postpaid \$1.37.

A girl of twenty who had seen only two men

besides her father—that is Suzanne, the piquant French girl on whose island the attractive young Englishman was wrecked. Of course, she didn't know how to behave when he fell in love with her! Read her whimsical and romantic story in SUZETTE by Dion Clayton Calverton.

\$1.25 net, postpaid \$1.37.

FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY Publishers New York

THE MOST ENJOYABLE FIRST NOVEL BY A NEW WRITER FROM EAST MORGAN'S "JOSEPH VANCE."

—J. B. Kerfoot in LIFE

THE GARDEN WITHOUT WALLS

By Coningsby Dawson

6th Printing—\$1.35 net.

HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY PUBLISHERS NEW YORK

NEW BOOKS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST

"THINGS I REMEMBER"

By FREDERICK TOWNSEND MARTIN
Illustrated. 8vo. Handsome cloth. \$3.00 net.
Mr. Frederick Townsend Martin, brother of the late Mr. Bradley Martin, is a familiar figure in New York and London society, and this volume positively teems with piquant society gossip. Particularly interesting are the author's anecdotes of the popular late King Edward.

THE MECCAS OF THE WORLD

By ANNE WARWICK, author of "The Unknown Woman," "Compensation," etc.

With 19 full page illustrations. 8vo. Handsome cloth. \$2.00 net.
The American Girl has done many original and daring things, but do you know any American Girl of twenty who has left her home country and gone alone to see for herself the life of other lands? Anne Warwick did this, and her book is a record of her novel and charming experiences in the big cosmopolitan cities—New York, Paris, Vienna, Madrid and London.

BEHIND THE BEYOND

By STEPHEN LEACOCK, author of "Nonsense Novels," "Literary Lapses," etc.

With 17 illustrations. Cloth. \$1.00 net.
"Doubtless you have been photographed; doubtless, too, you have been to the dentist; possibly you have been 'under the barber's knife,' and maybe you have been to Paris. An excellent way for you to 'get back at' all of these experiences is for you to read Mr. Leacock."

—New York Tribune.

JOHN LANE COMPANY

Publishers At All Bookstores NEW YORK